

the gonys ; the rest of it and inside of mouth pale yellowish flesh-colour ; legs and toes large and thick ; claws thin and pointed, hind claw long and Pipit-like, all of a deep brownish flesh-colour, with paler edges and soles.

First quill diminutive ; second one-twelfth shorter than third, which is longest. Colouring similar to *L. raii*, and perhaps as variable, according to the stage of its plumage.

I have a few other novelties, perhaps more interesting than the above, from China, but I have not now leisure to add them to this list ; I must therefore reserve them for a future paper.

### 3. NOTICE OF THE CHANCO OR GOLDEN WOLF (*CANIS CHANCO*) FROM CHINESE TARTARY. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC.

Lady Augustus Hervey has kindly presented to the British Museum a fine specimen of the skin of a Wolf, which was shot by her brother, Lieut. W. P. Hodnell, of H.M.'s 54th Regiment, with several other animals, such as the large *Ovis ammon*, in Chinese Tartary.

It is a very showy animal, rather larger than the common European Wolf.

I do not find it noticed either in Pallas's 'Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica,' published at St. Petersburg in 1831, or in Dr. Leopold v. Schrenck's 'Reisen und Forschungen im Amur-Lande in den Jahren 1851-56,' published at St. Petersburg in 1858, unless they regard it as a variety of the Common Wolf (*C. lupus*).

The Russians in Eastern Siberia call a Fox (*Canis alpinus*) (figured by Schrenck, t. 2) the *krasnoi Wolk*, that is, Tawny Wolf.

#### *CANIS CHANCO.*

Fur fulvous, on the back longer, rigid, with intermixed black and grey hairs ; the throat, chest, belly, and inside of the legs pure white ; head pale grey-brown ; forehead grizzled with short black and grey hairs.

*Hab.* Chinese Tartary. Called *Chanco*.

The skull is very like, and has the same teeth as, the European Wolf (*C. lupus*). The animal is very like a Common Wolf, but rather shorter on the legs ; and the ears, the sides of the body, and outside of the limbs are covered with short pale fulvous hairs.

The length of its head and body is 42 inches ; tail 15 inches.

### 4. NOTICE OF A NEW SPECIES OF CHAMELEON SENT FROM KHARTOOM BY MR. CONSUL PETHERICK. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., ETC.

This species is very like *Chamaeleo senegalensis* ; but the scales on the ridges of the head and the ridges of the back are of the same size as those of the neighbouring parts, and therefore do not form

any appreciable crest. The occiput is rather differently shaped, the hinder central keel being a little more prominent. The scales of the head, body, limbs, and tail are smaller and less raised. The limbs are longer and more slender.

This species is very different from the *Chamæleo affinis* of Rüppell, (which is the *C. abyssinicus* of the Berlin Museum), from Abyssinia, which differs from both *C. senegalensis* and *C. lævigatus* in the scales being much larger and more convex, and in the scales of the ridges of the head and back being larger than those on the neighbouring parts, so as to form distinct crests; and in *C. affinis* the body is grey or blackish, with two or three broad, irregular-shaped, opaque-white spots, forming an interrupted streak on each side of the back of the animal.

This species may be thus described:—

#### CHAMELEO LÆVIGATUS.

Grey or bluish in spirits. Scales small, flat, subequal, uniform; dorsal line, nearly smooth, scarcely crested. Belly with a crest of larger acute white scales. Occiput slightly raised in the centre by a slight keel; the superciliary ridges and the central keel scarcely dentated. The legs elongate, very slender.

*Hab.* Khartoom.

#### 5. NOTES ON TWO NEW SPECIES OF MAMMALS. BY J. K. LORD, F.Z.S., NATURALIST TO THE BRITISH NORTH-AMERICAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

My principal reason for bringing to your notice this evening two animals, a Musk Rat and a *Lagomys*, that I propose making new species, is to elicit from the zoologists who are before me opinions on that most debatable of all debatable questions, Where does well-marked variety end, and species begin? Is it enough if you have decided differences of habit, size, colour, and locality—variations that are always constant, but without well-defined *structural* differences, or these, if any, but trivial in character; or must there of necessity be decidedly marked variations in *structure*, particularly in the skull and dental formulæ, as well as in habit, colour, size, and habitat, to constitute a species? I now have on the table four animals, two of which are described and figured, and two I believe specifically distinct from the former; and although the latter, as I shall be able to point out to you, present differences of habit most singularly well marked, strongly defined differences of size and colour, habitat, and range, yet an examination of their skulls shows only some slight differences, principally in size.

First, then, of the Musk Rat. The one which I believe is the well-known *Fiber zibethicus* (Cuv.) makes its holes in the clayey banks of streams and pools where the water runs slowly. The entrance is always below the surface of the water; the hole is dug up in a slanting direction till above the water-level. A stage or flat place is